

Recommendation: 2010 levies, 2012 bond

- The 2006 bond is meeting immediate and near-future construction needs. Long-term capacity and infrastructure needs are still speculative, and a 2012 bond will bring a much clearer assessment—reducing the possibility that the Board will need to repurpose bond funds or forge ahead with construction projects that do not fit our needs exactly. Also, premature speculation about certain construction projects—that may or may not be necessary—could ignite conversations with municipal and community stakeholders that we are not ready to hold at this point.
- By 2012, significant construction projects from the 2006 bond package will be complete in all areas of the District, providing voters with tangible results of their tax dollars at work from the previous bond.
- The District needs to be sensitive to the current economic climate by only asking taxpayers to fund the most essential items for education and safety/maintenance of property. This will fit with an overall message during lean state and District budget processes: Because the state does not fully fund the cost of basic education, we need local voters to fill in the gaps to ensure our students are ready to compete and thrive in a dynamic global environment.
- This has proven to be a hard time to win bonds: On the February 3 ballot, only one bond measure passed statewide. Many districts pulled their bond from the ballot entirely.
- A successful 2012 bond will replace the expiring 2006 bond sales, creating a consistent tax rate.
- VIS leaders have indicated that they believe running levies only in 2010 is the most reasonable option, and they understand that the District would be facing two major ballot initiatives spread only two years apart.